

Métis Kokom Mary



Métis Kokom Mary Coloring Book
Created by Mary Madeline Richard and Lane Ferguson
In partnership with Rupertsland Institute



Métis language and culture are living traditions that are alive and well in Alberta, thanks to the hard work of Métis Language and Cultural Carriers.

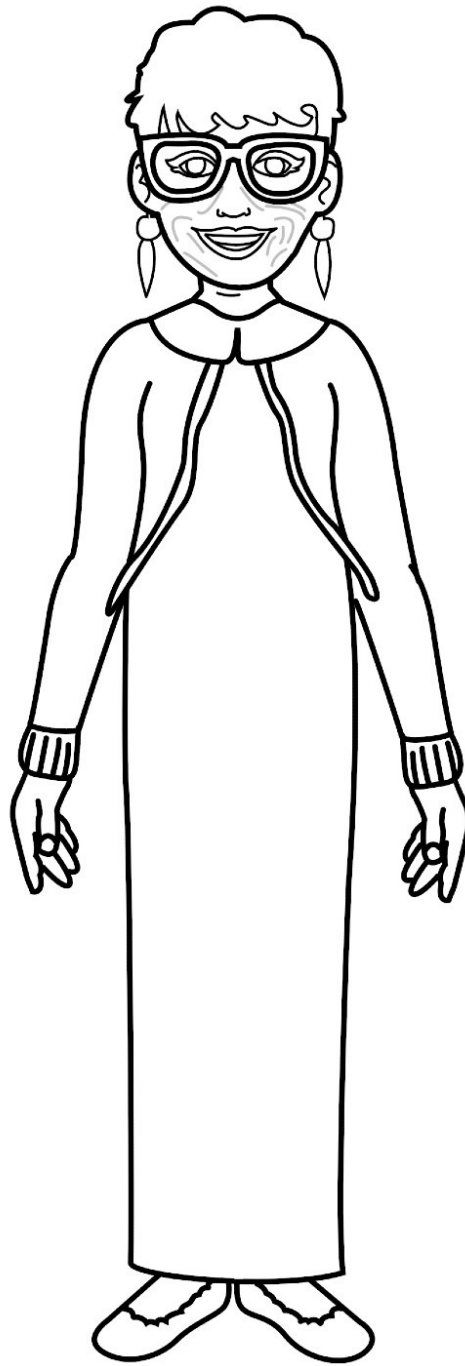
This colouring book was made to share the Indigenous language experiences of the Métis peoples in Alberta.

The book shares the story of Métis Kokom Mary Madeline Richard who grew up in Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6. She shares stories of her family hunting, trapping, and getting all their resources from the land. Métis Kokom Mary also shares how she is proud to be Métis and what it means to her.

The illustrations were made by Métis graphic artist Lane Ferguson.

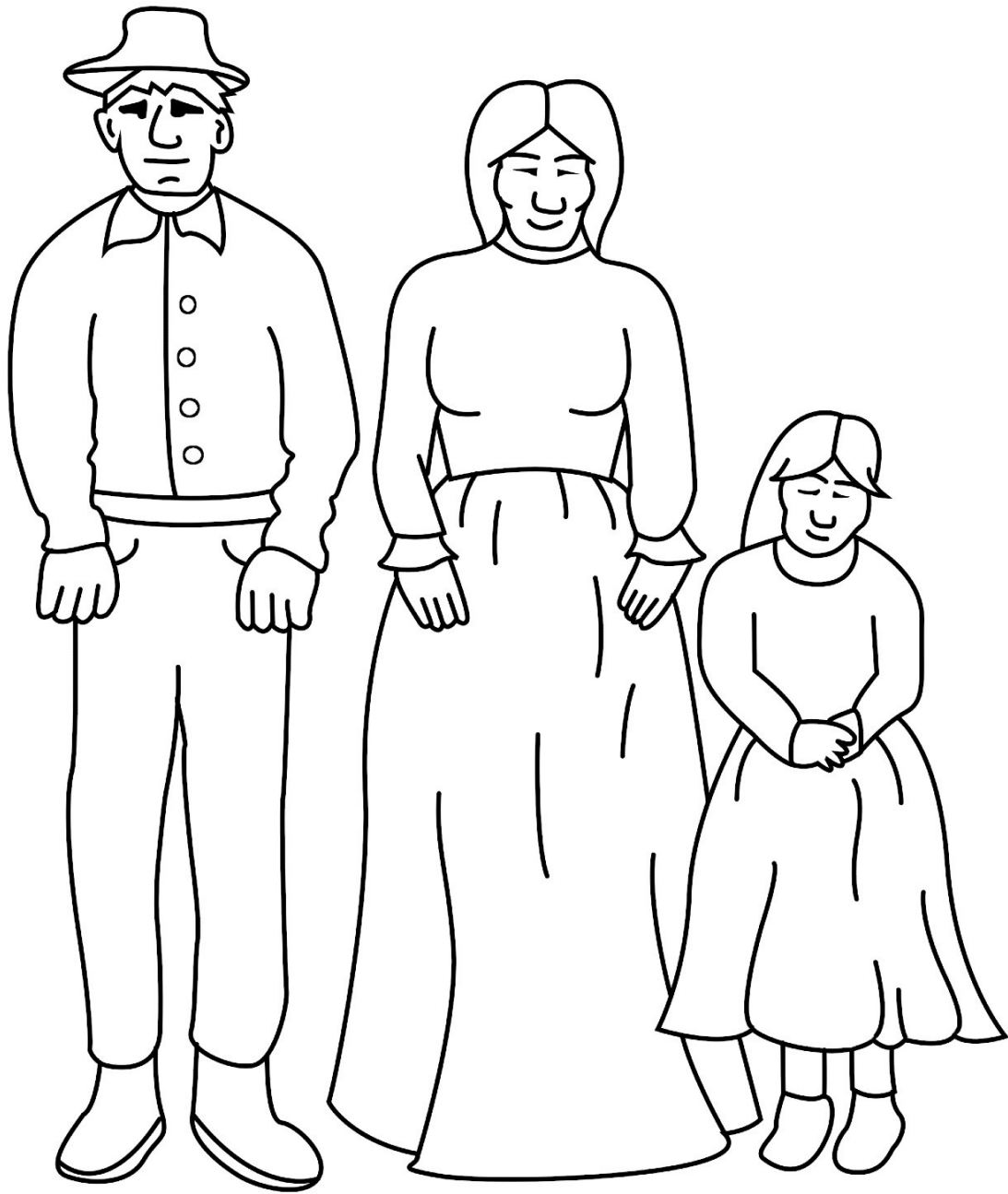
This project was produced in partnership with Rupertsland Institute.





Hi, I am Kokom Mary

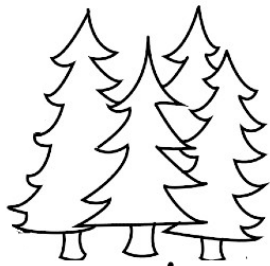




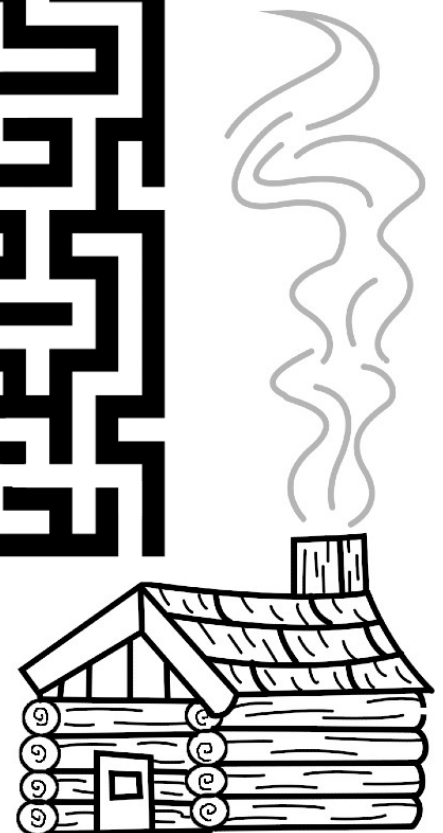
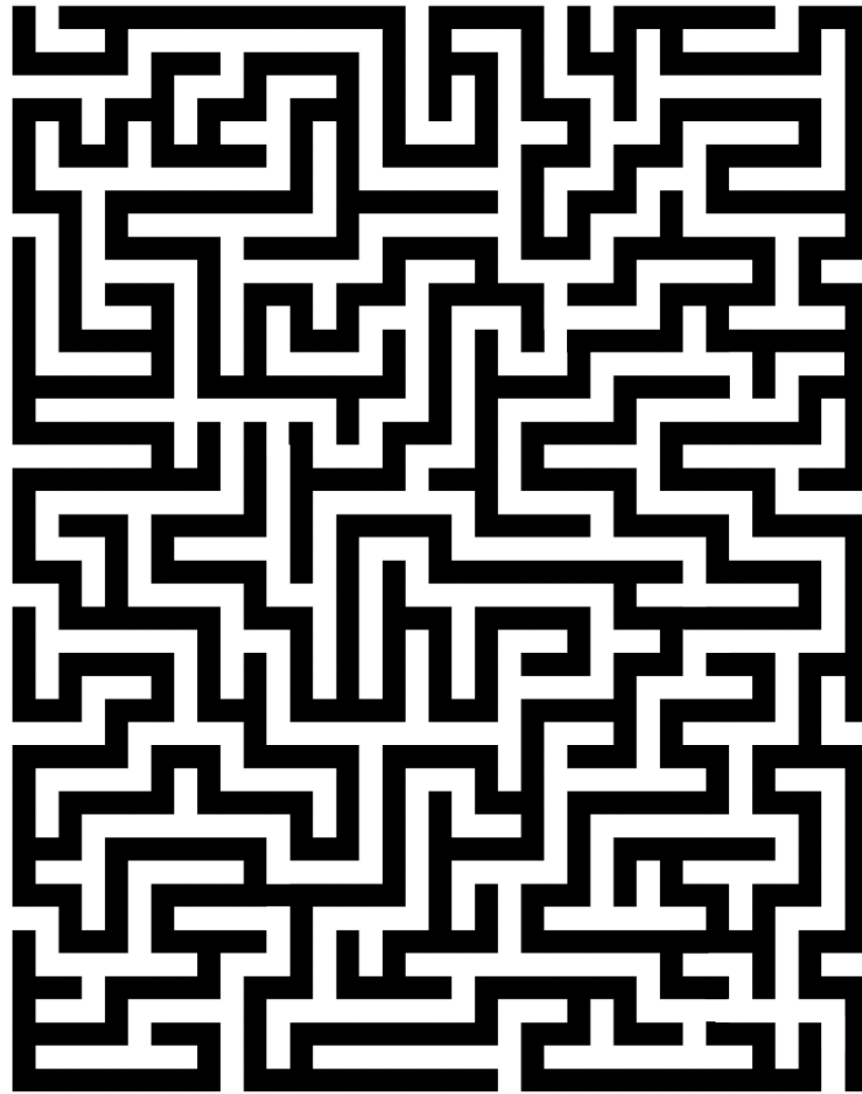
**My parents were Métis and
we spoke Cree**



**When I was small, I was raised in
the wilderness of Northern
Alberta with my family**



**Collect wood from the forest
and bring it to the log cabin**



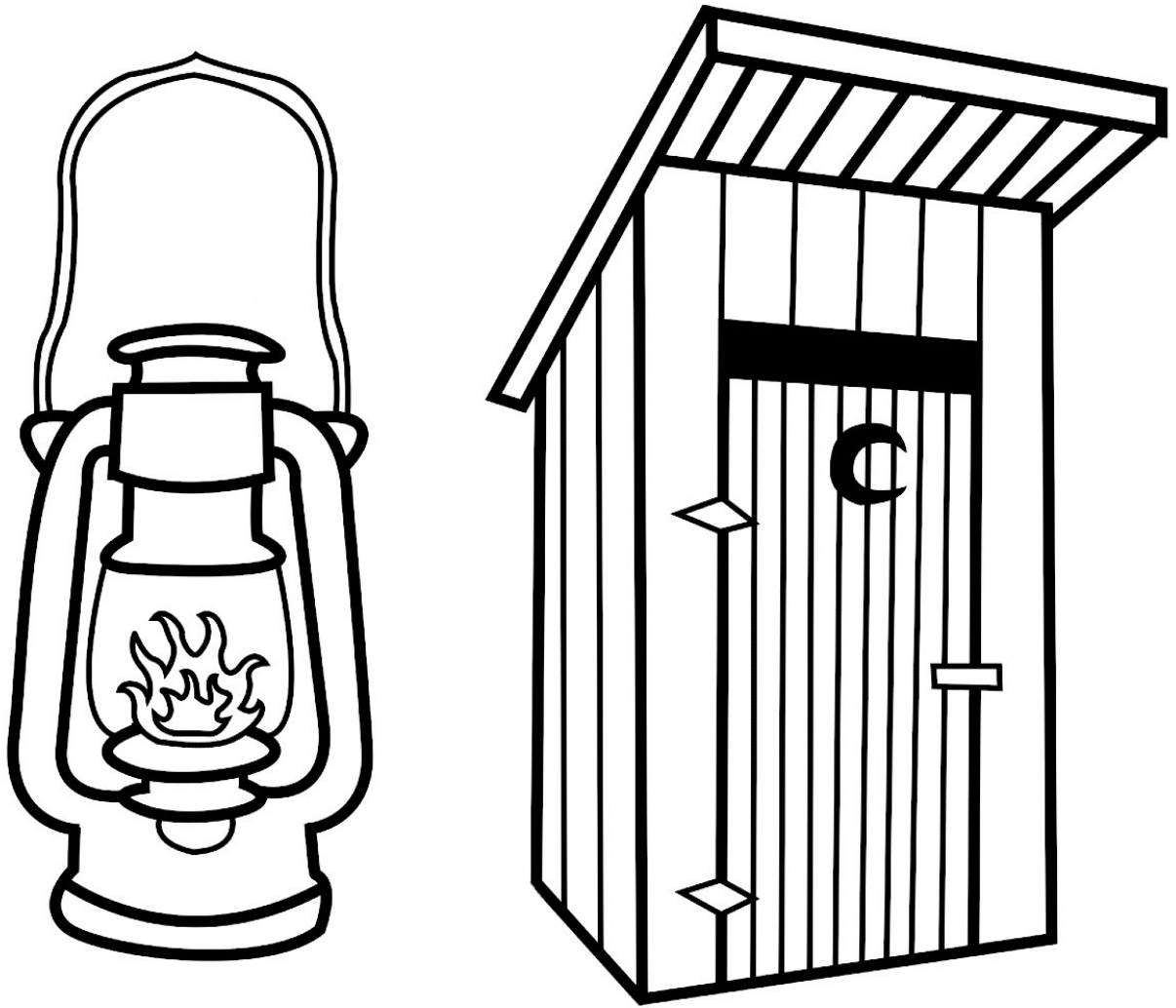
**Dad and mom worked hard for
our survival and to keep us safe**



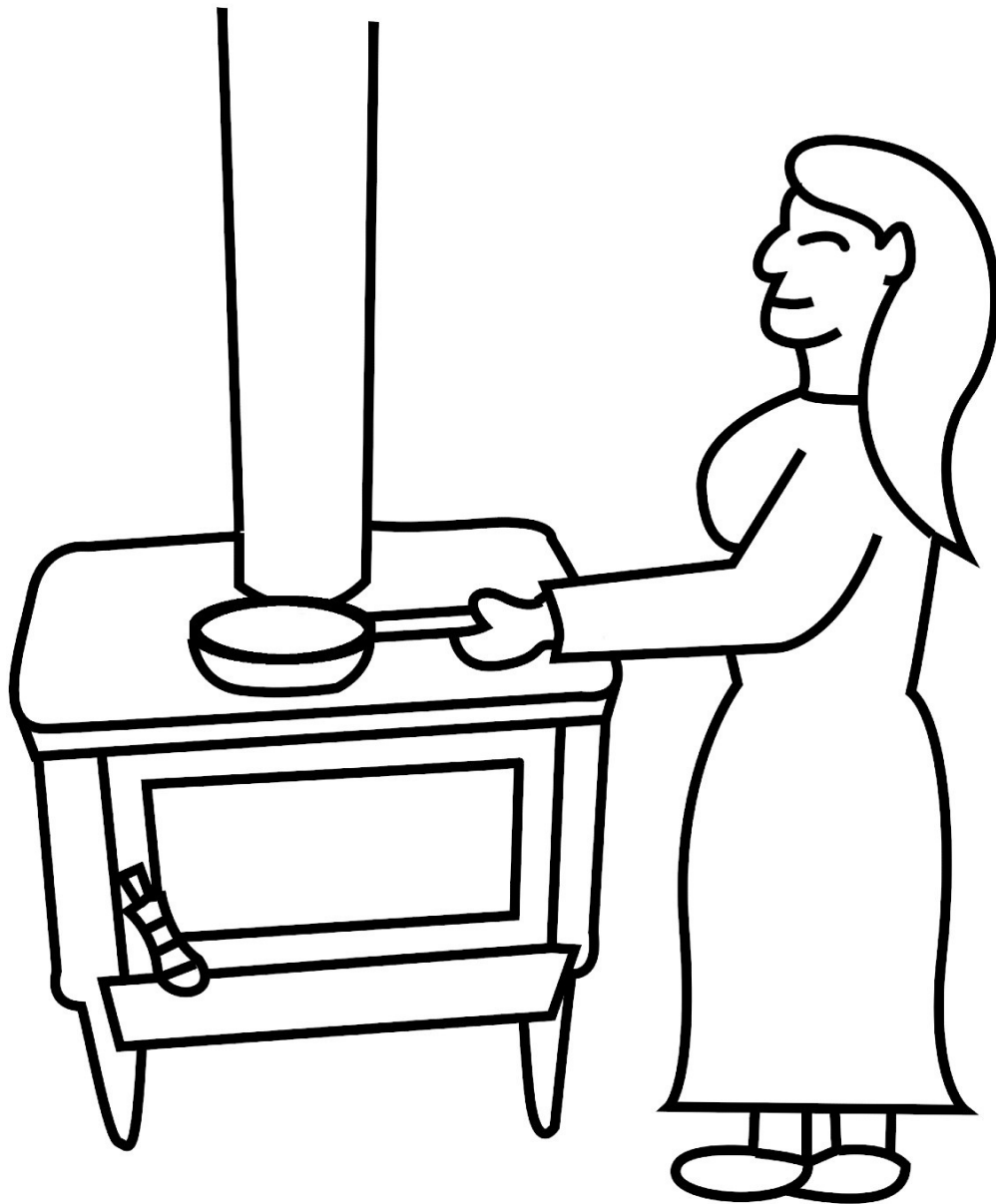


**I lived with my dad, mom,
grandmother and younger brother in
a log cabin that dad built from the
forest trees**

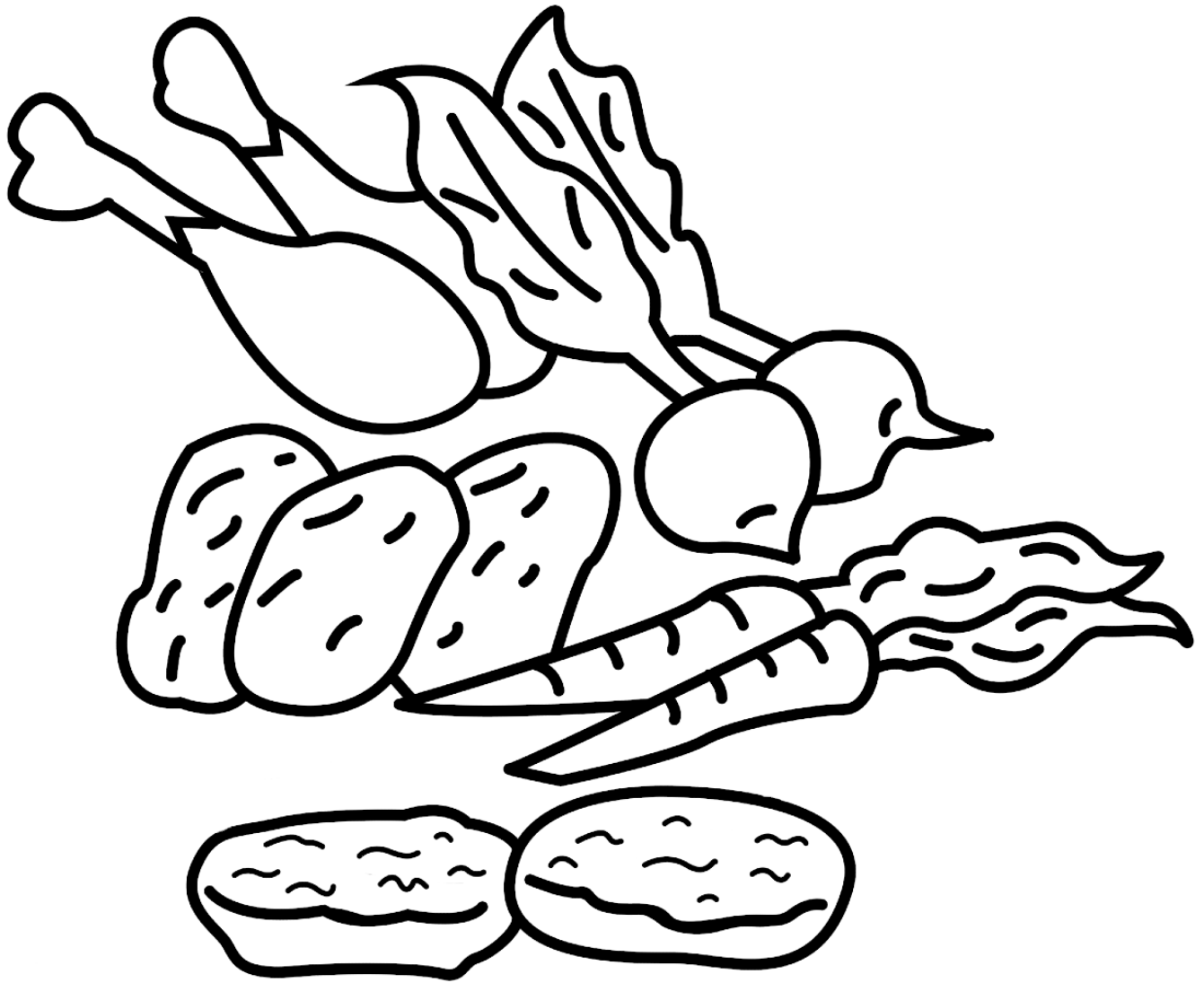




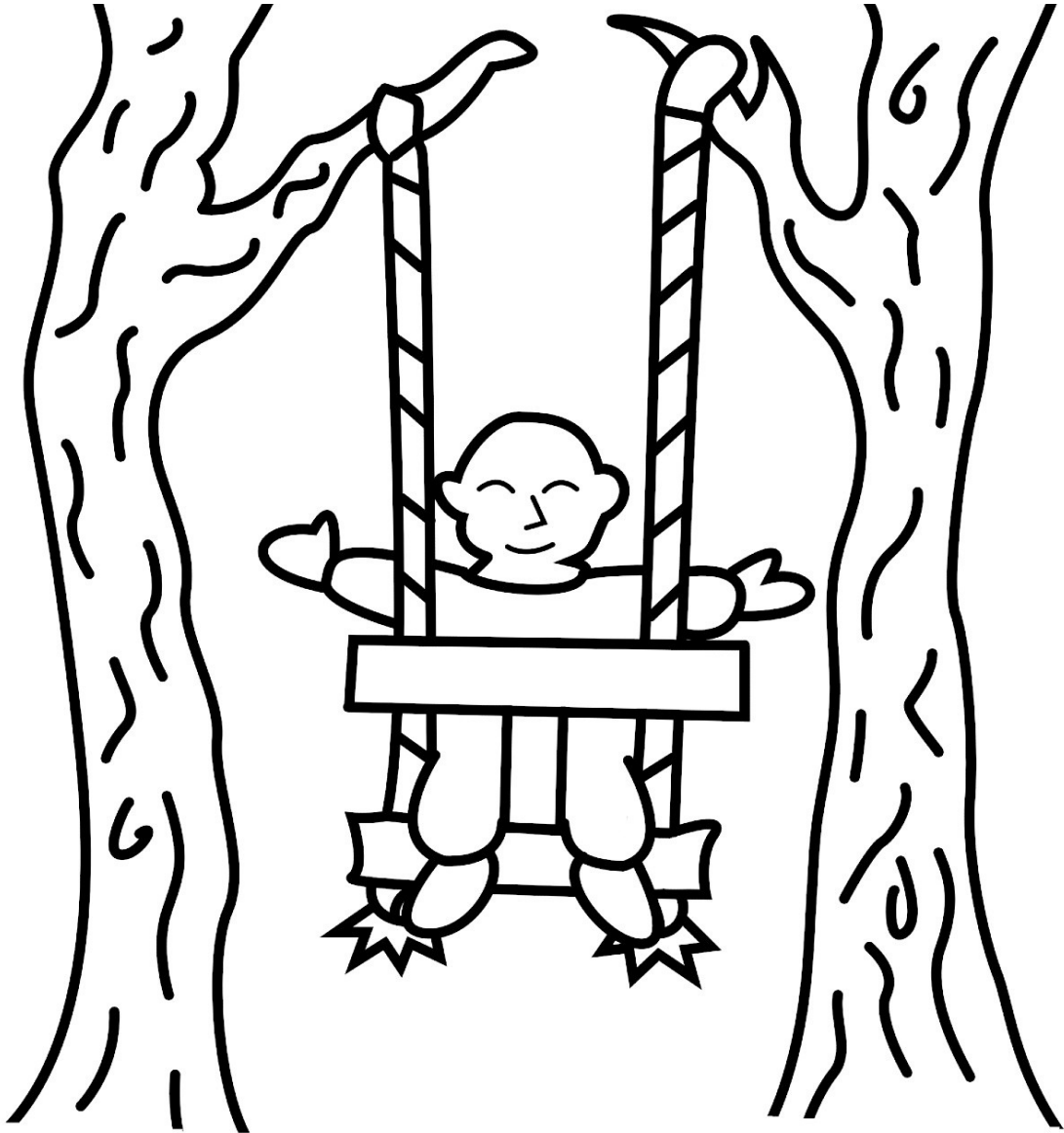
There was no electricity, gas, or plumbing in the wilderness, so we used an outhouse for the bathroom, and a coal oil lamp at night



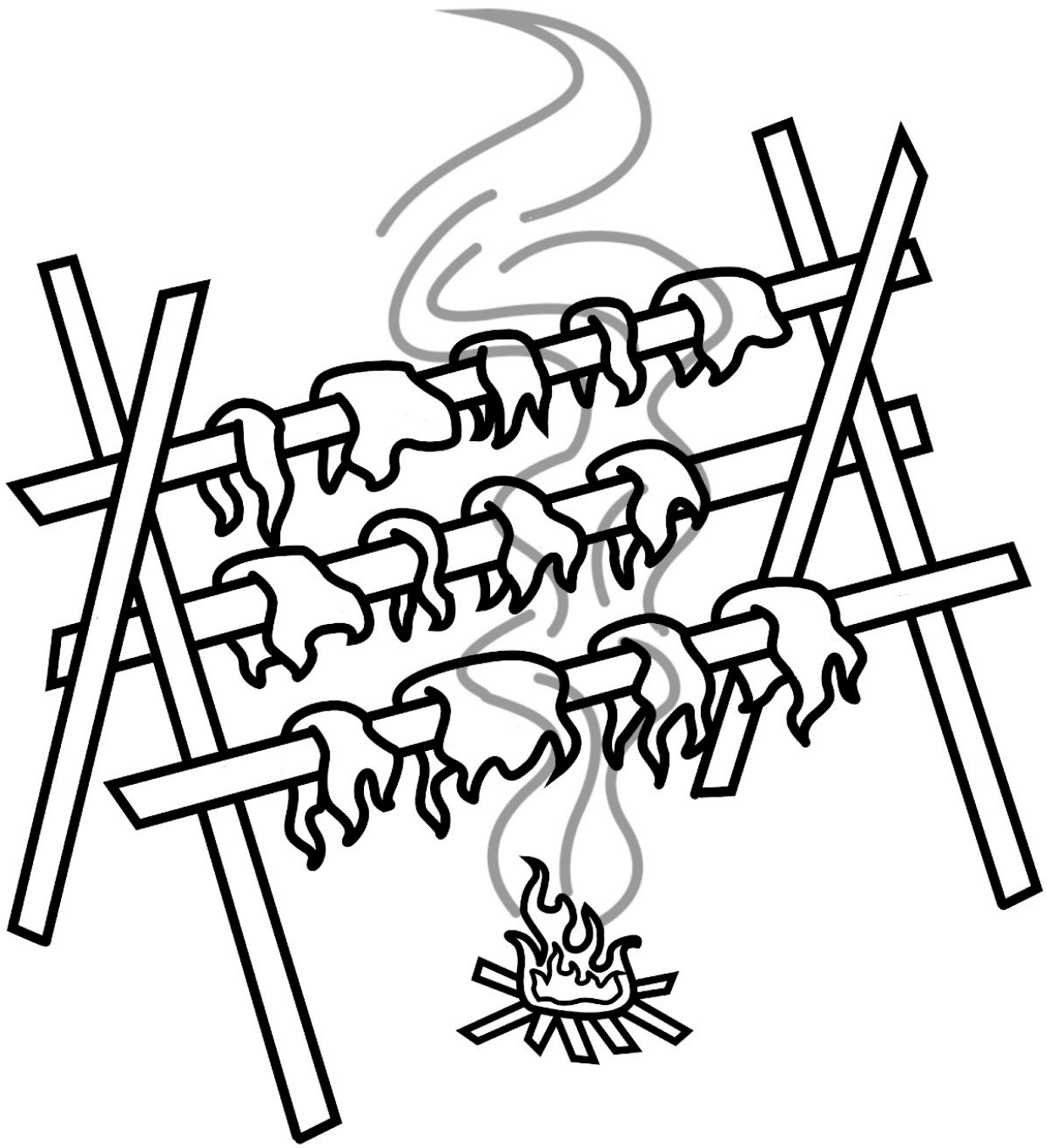
**Mom and grandma cooked on a
wood stove, and we had a root
cellar to store our food**



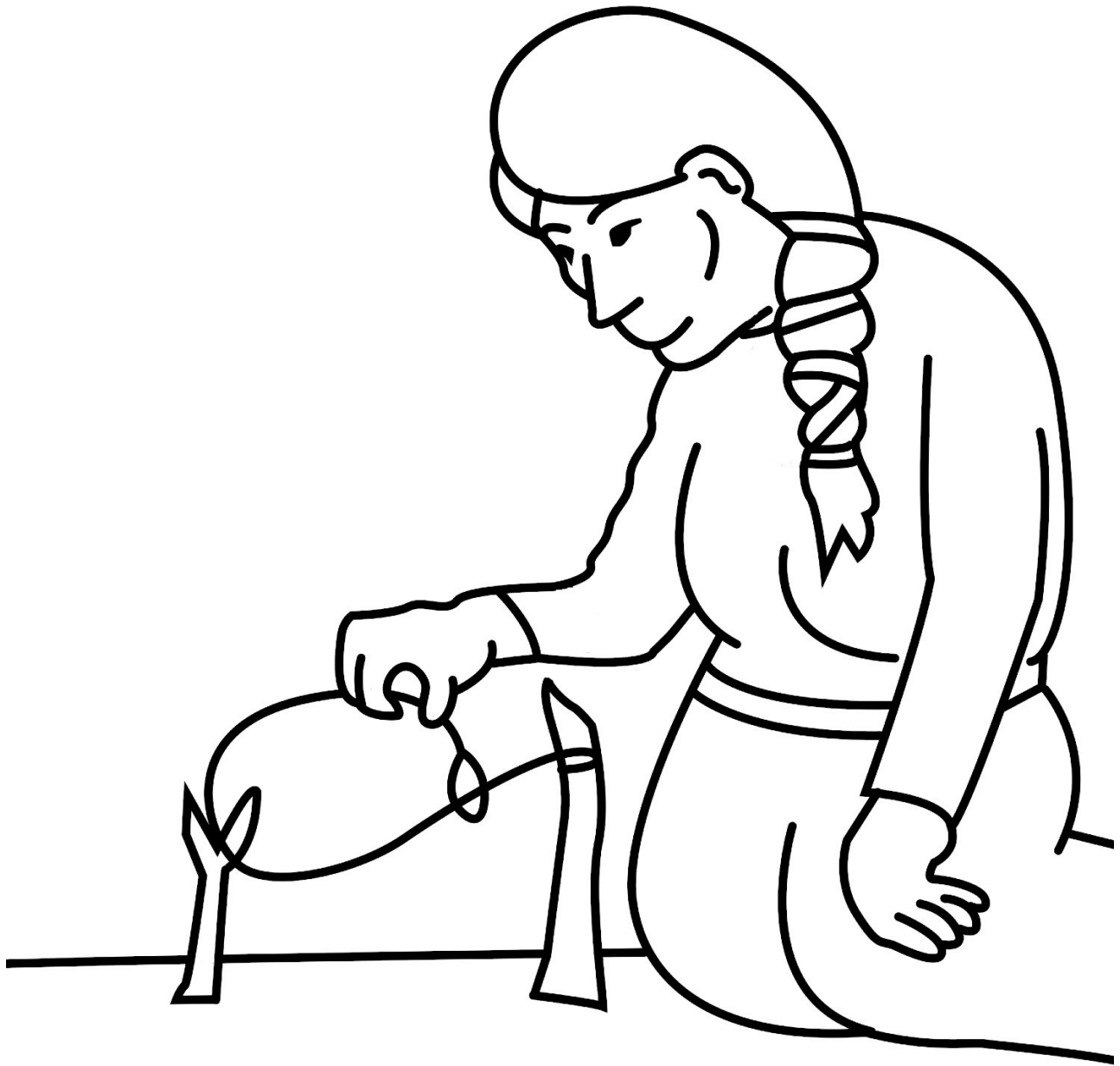
**Our food was moose meat, deer, rabbit,
prairie chickens, geese, ducks, bannock,
dried berries, beet pickles dry meat,
potatoes, carrots, turnips and onions.
Many of these foods are still eaten today**



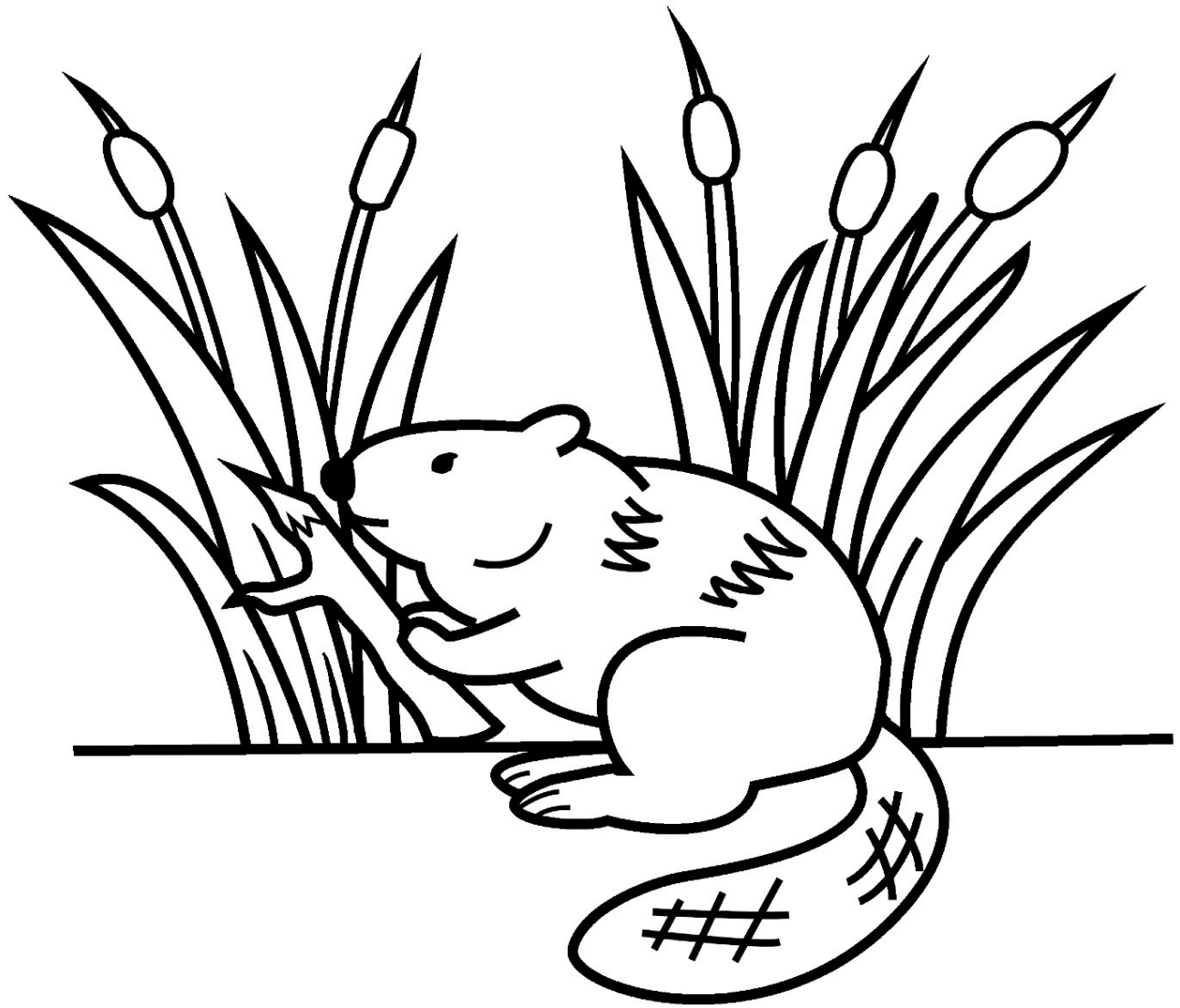
When picking wild berries, the baby would be put into a swing



Dad and mom would make a rack outside and cut up the moose meat in strips and dry the meat for 3 days



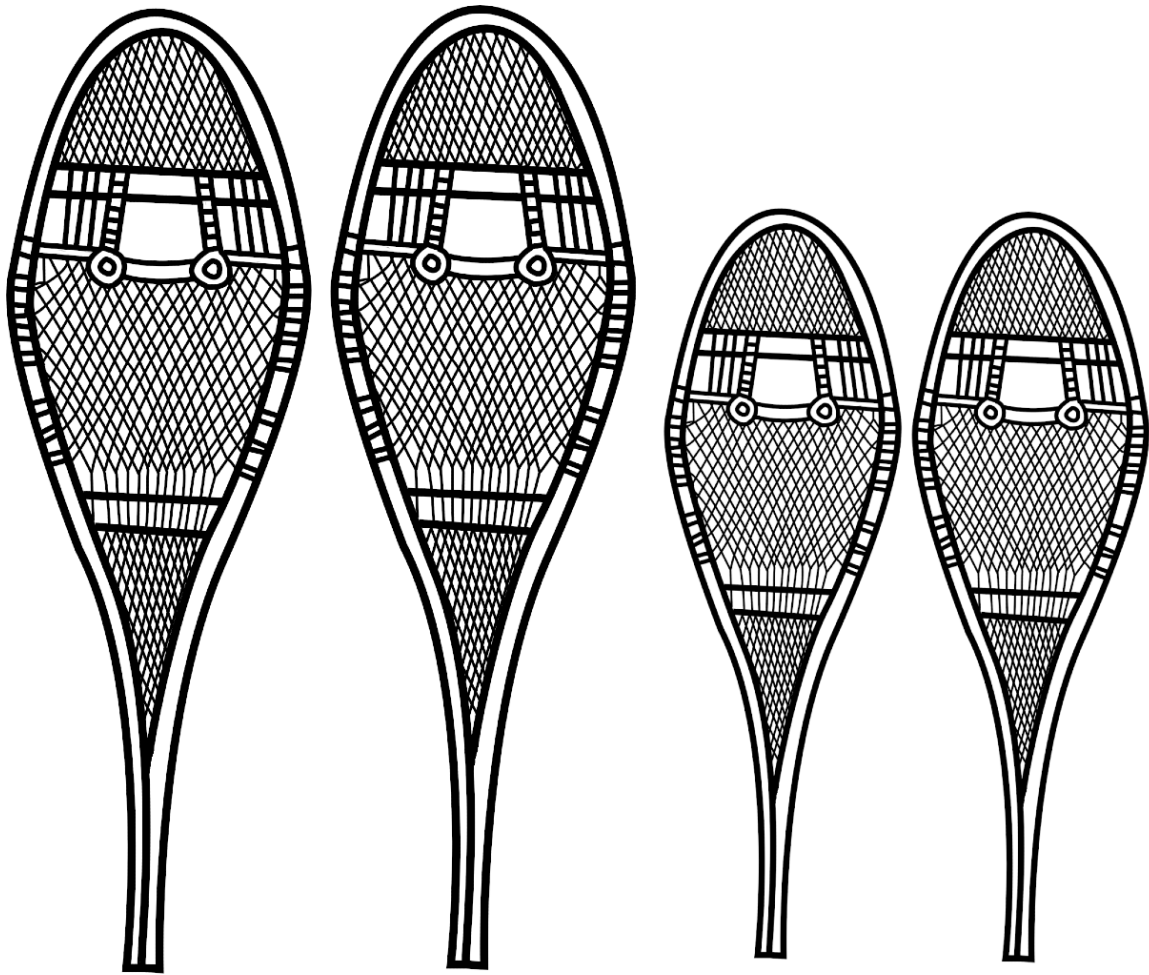
**Dad hunted wild animals for our
food and my mom snared rabbits
in the winter**



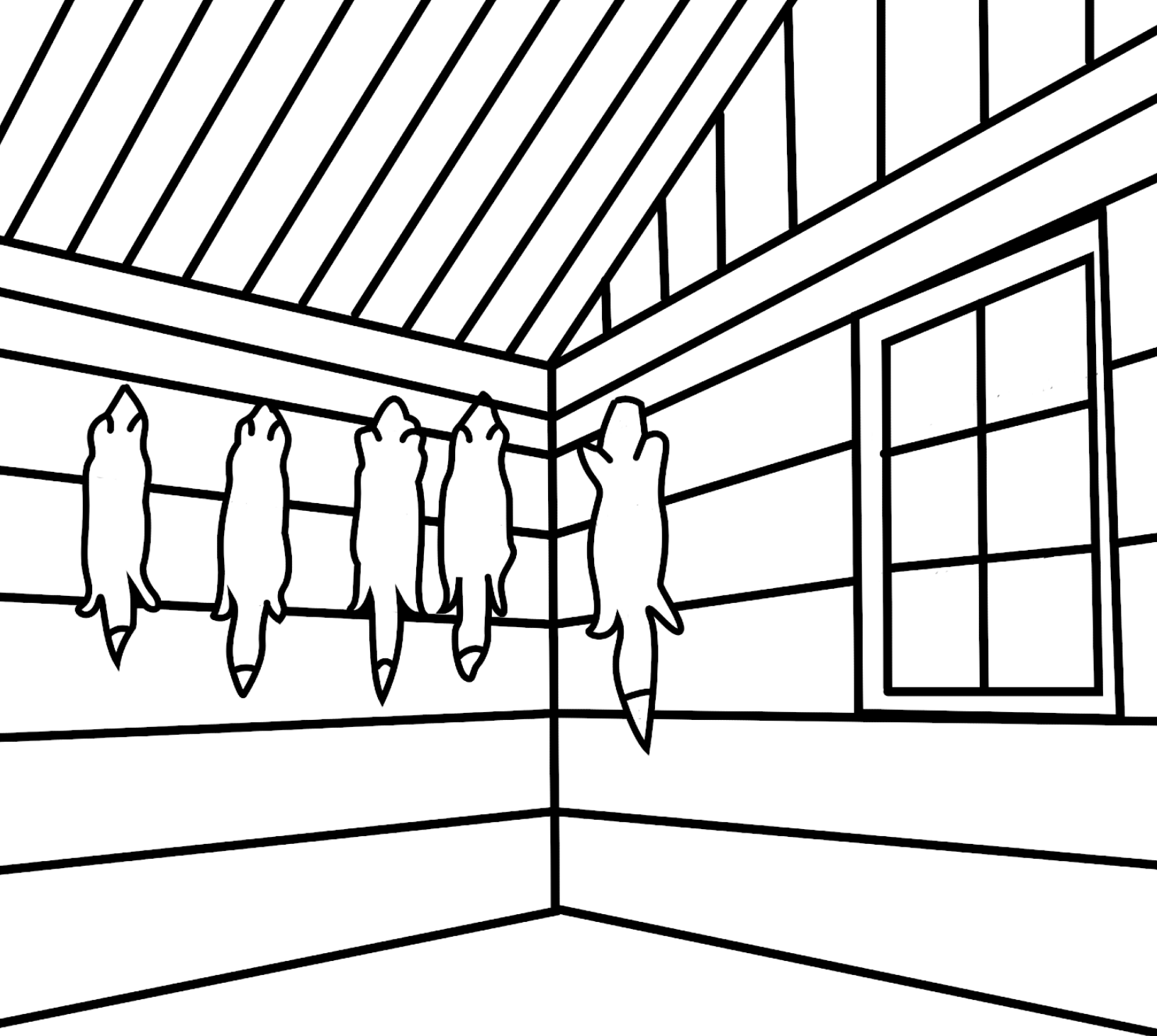
**He hunted beaver so
he could sell the fur**



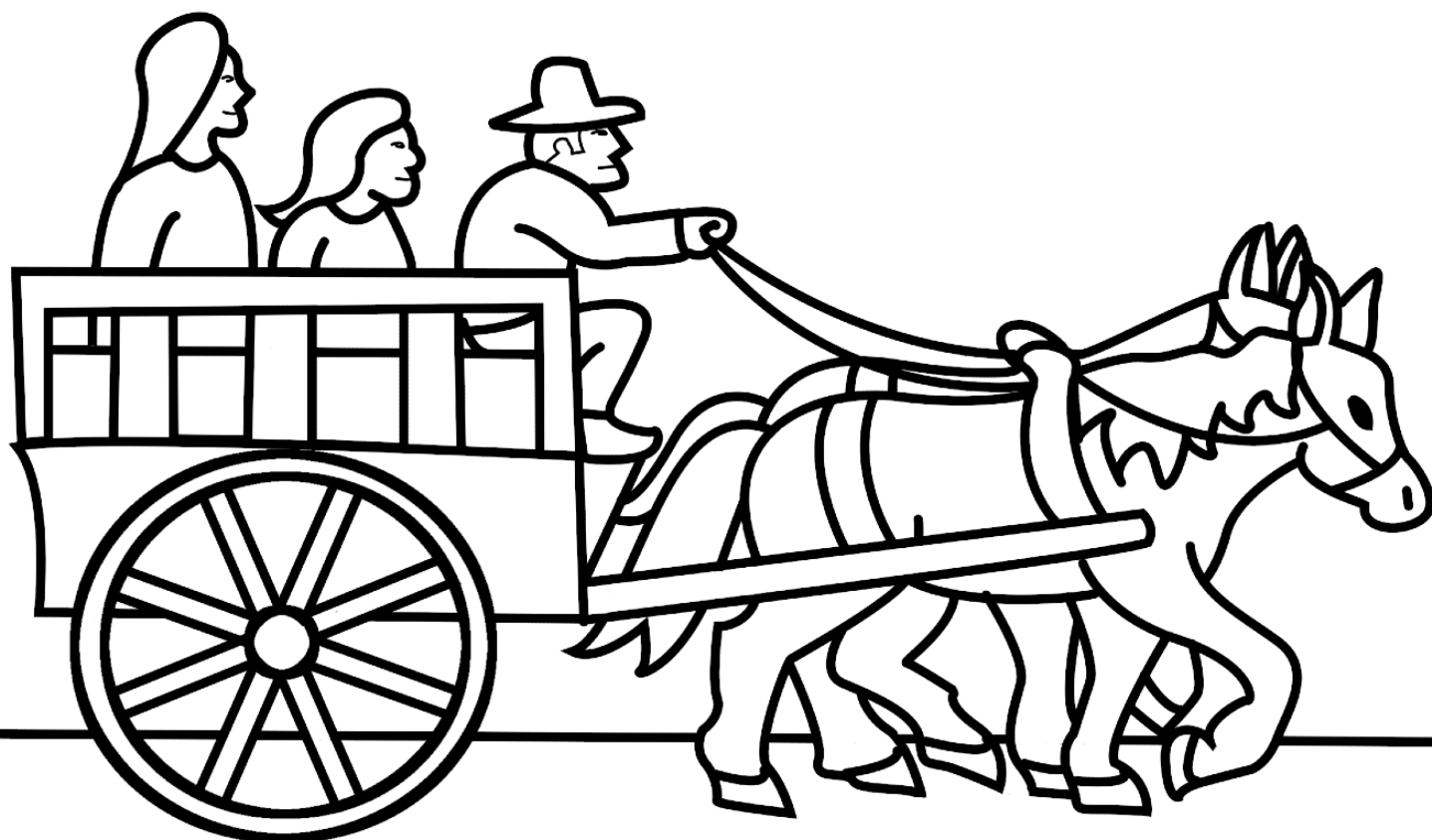
Dad was a trapper and used a dogsled team to check his traplines



**He made his own snowshoes to
walk on deep snow and
made me a pair too**



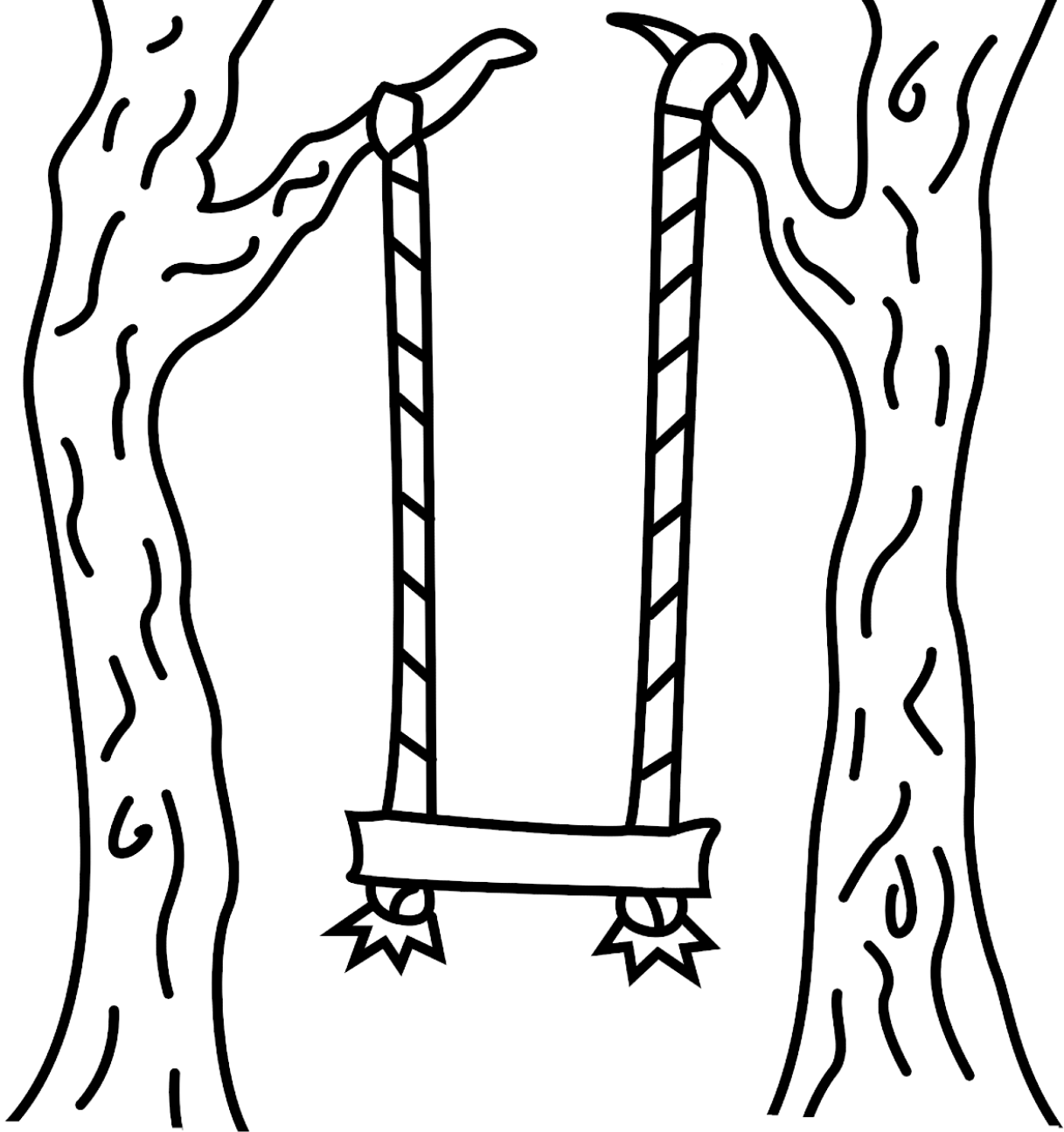
**Every spring my Dad would travel to
the Fur Trader store to sell his furs
and buy the supplies we needed**



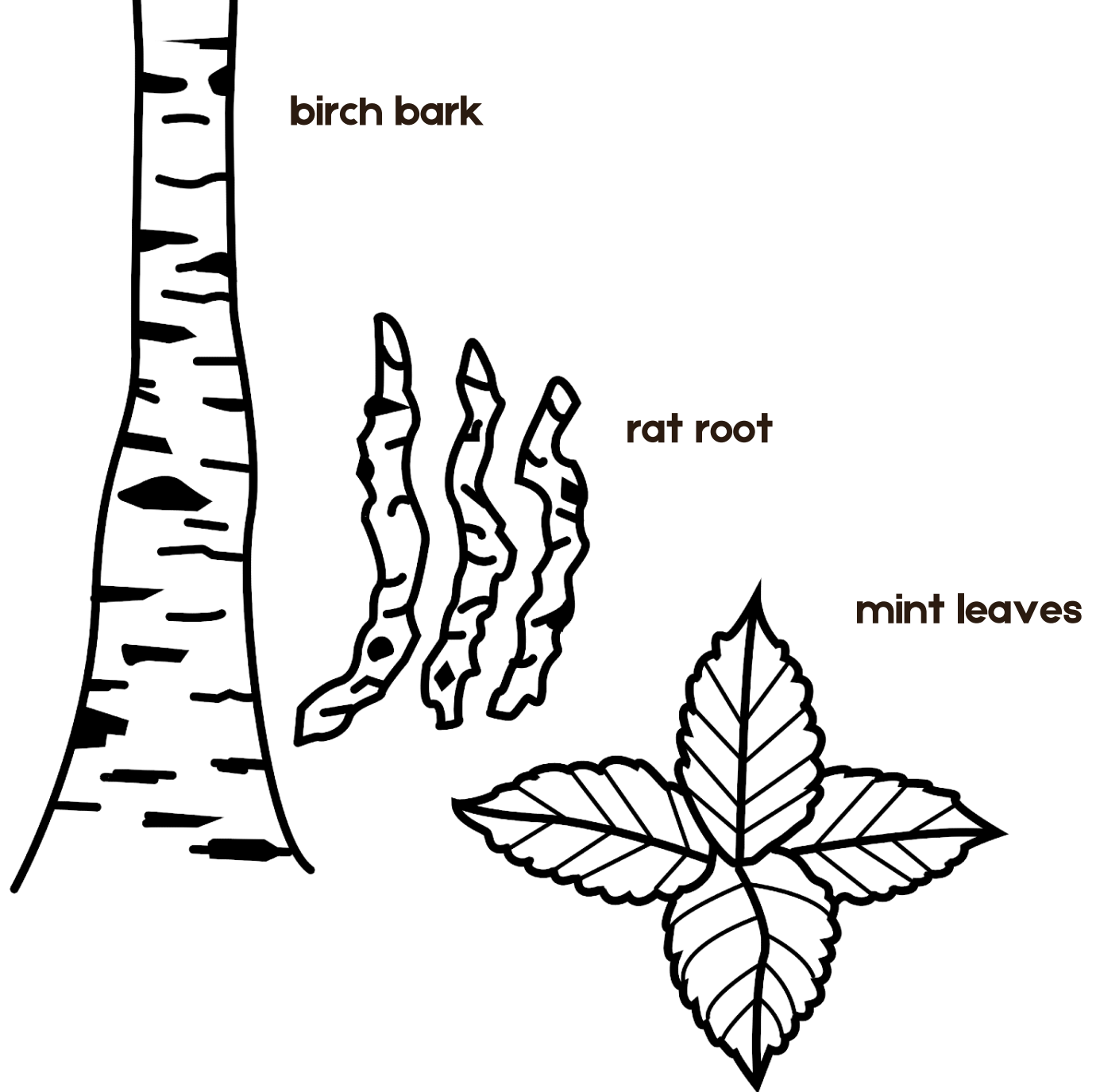
**My family would travel by
Caboose during the winter and
wagon during the summer pulled
by a team of horses**



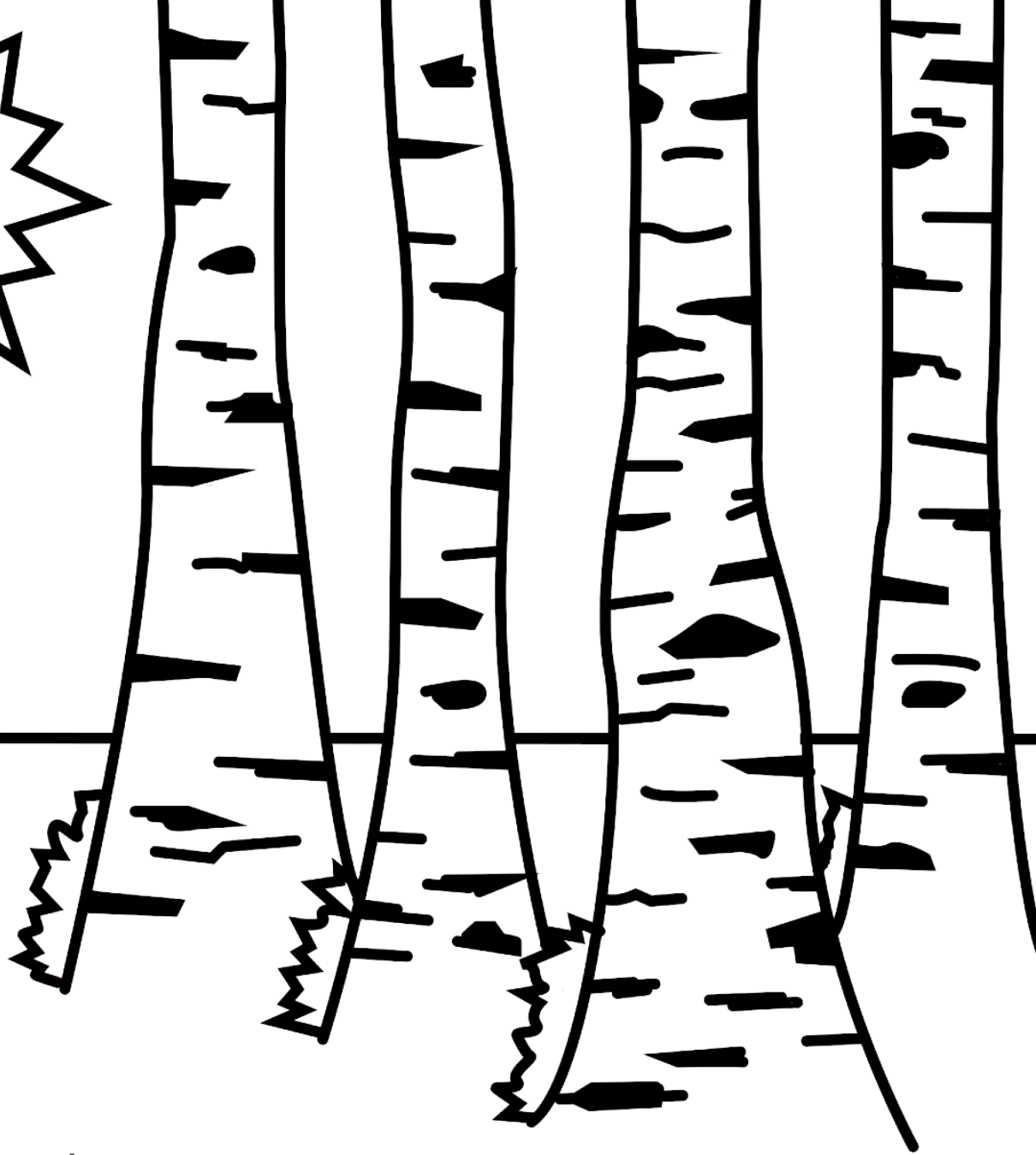
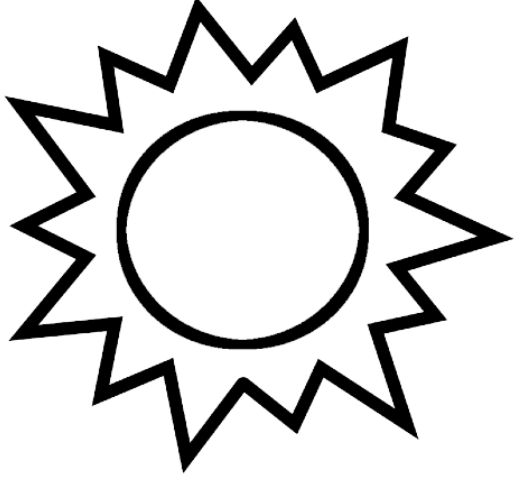
**I was taught not to tease or go
too close to wild animals because
the forest is their home**



**I played with willow branches and
sticks and had a rope strung
between two trees for a swing
because there was no playground**

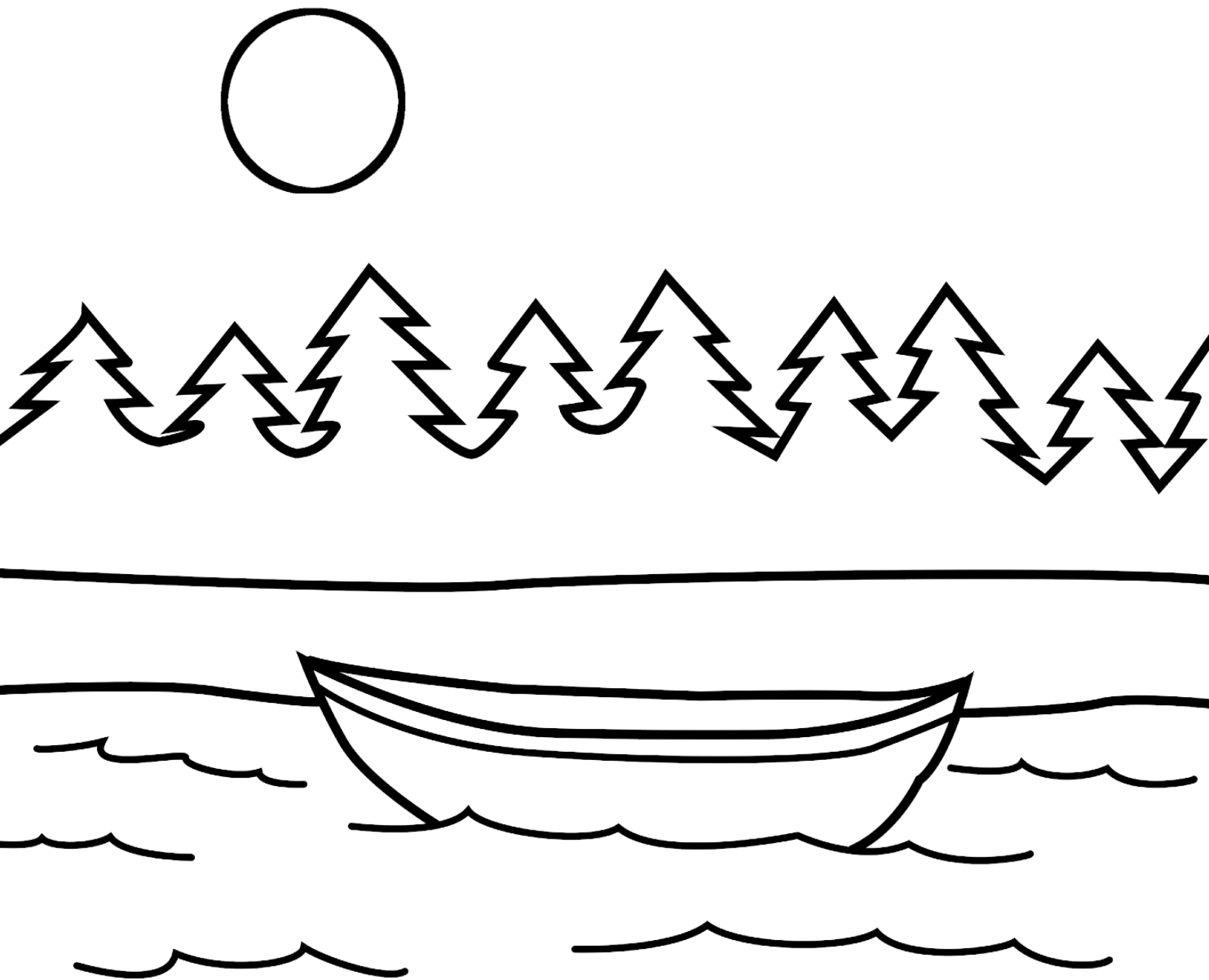


**When I felt sick, dad, mom
and grandmother healed me using
birch bark, rat root, mint tea and
other natural foliage**



**Dad taught me how to know my directions
in the wilderness so I would not get lost**

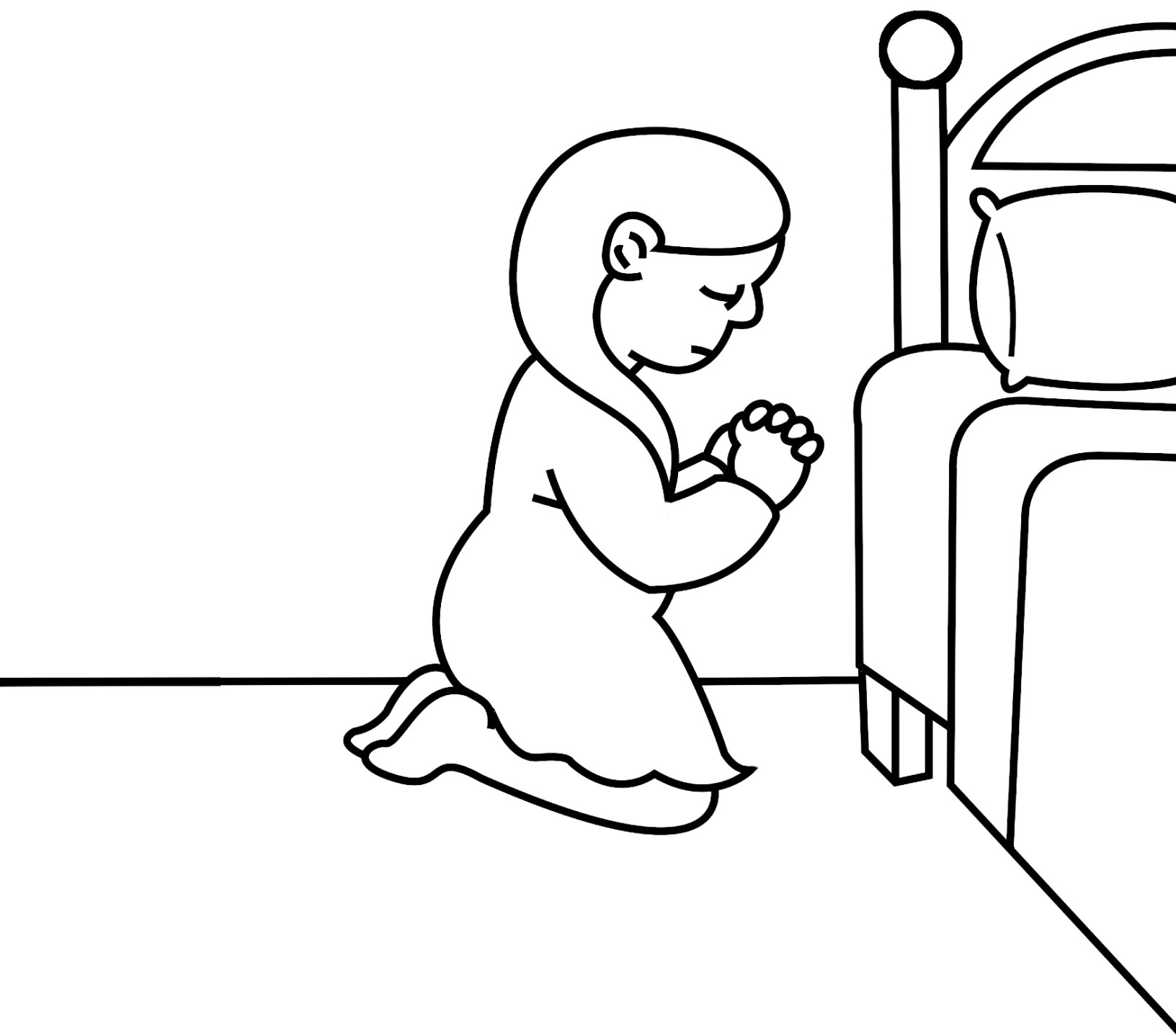
(moss grows on south side of tree)



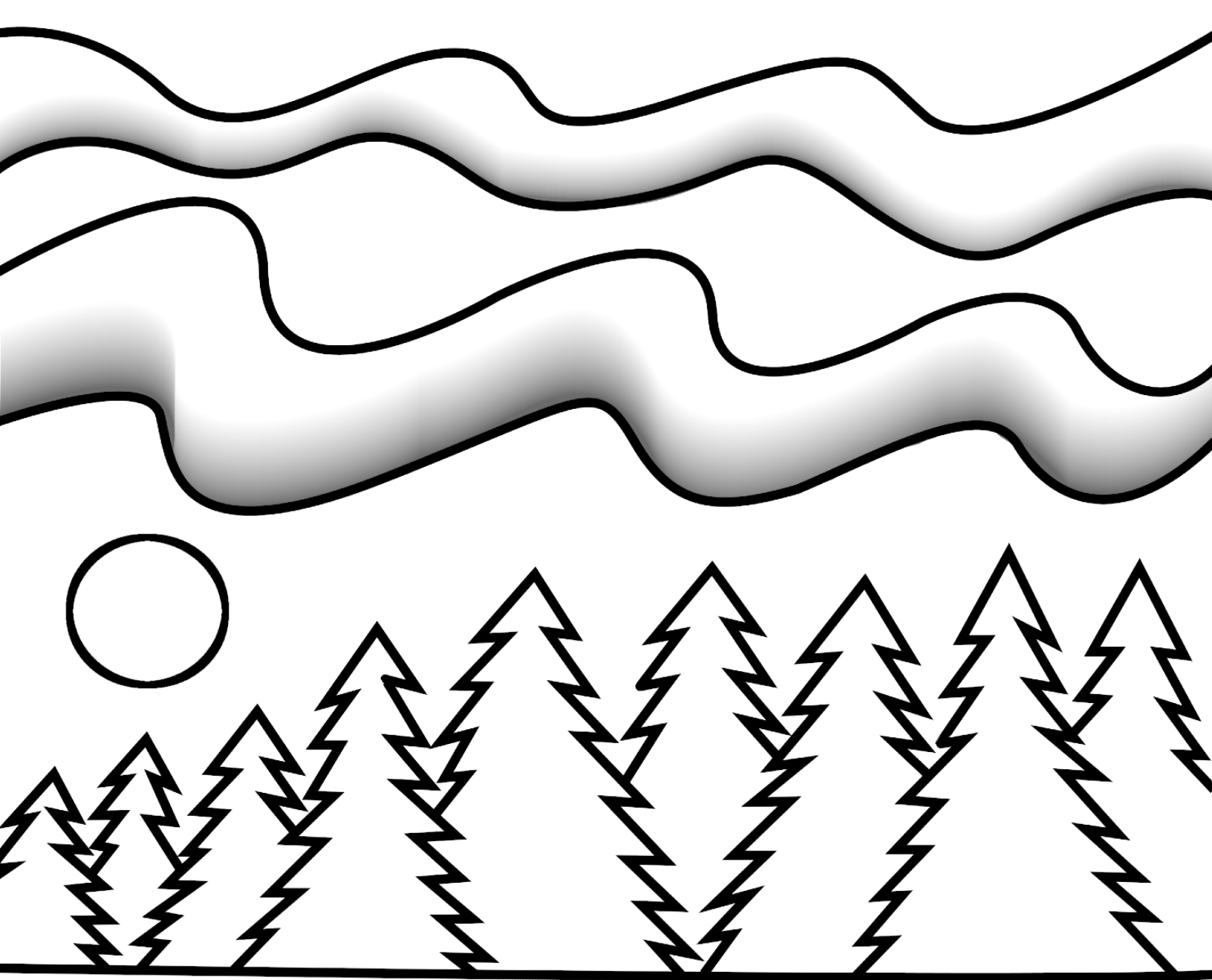
**He would make a willow boat for us,
so we could cross the river**



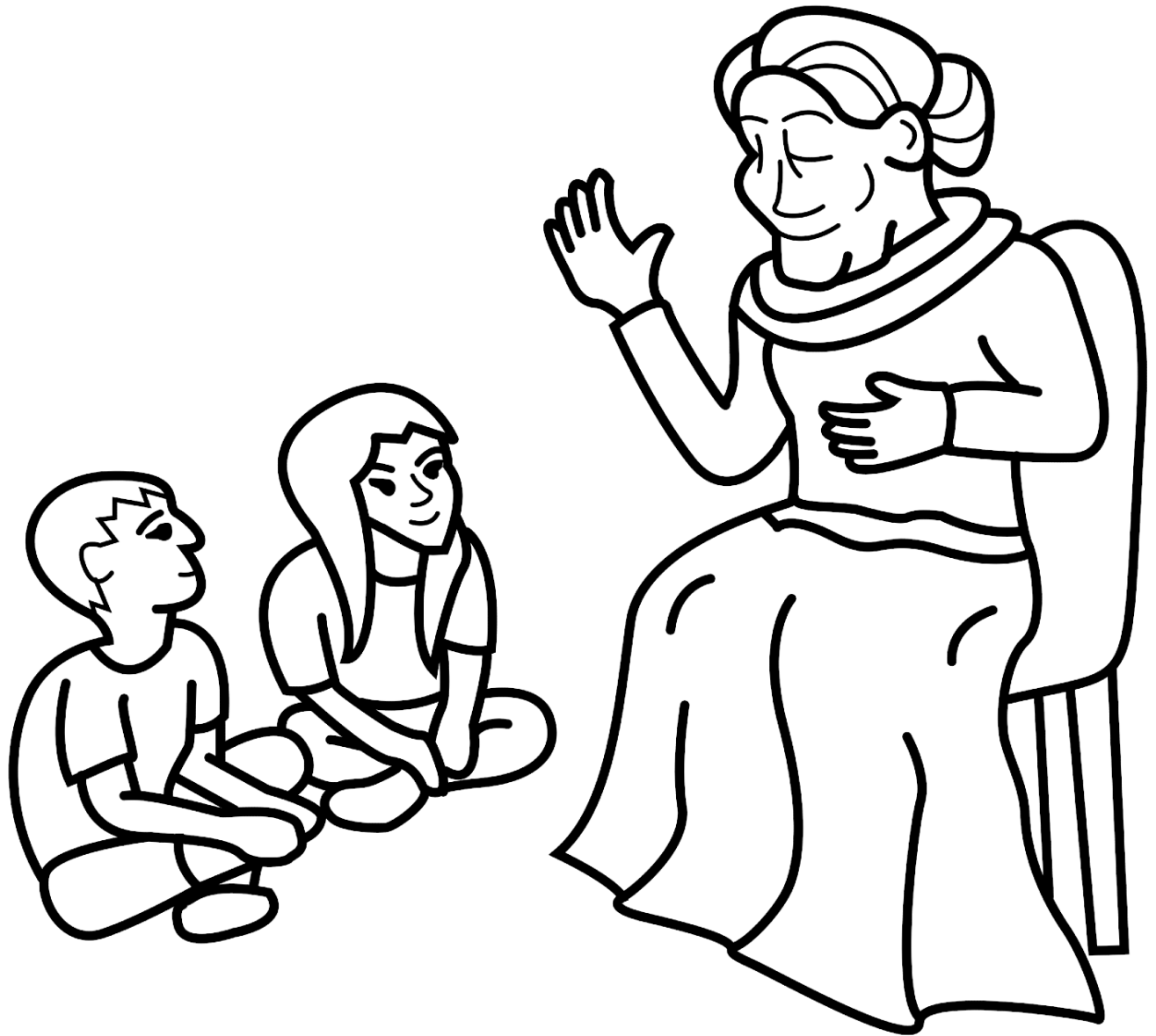
**My uncle played the fiddle while
everyone jigged and danced
together. This was our entertainment**



I prayed before my bedtime every night

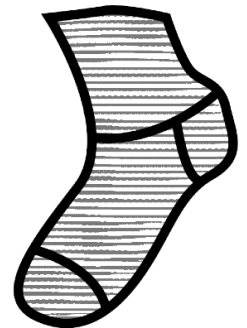
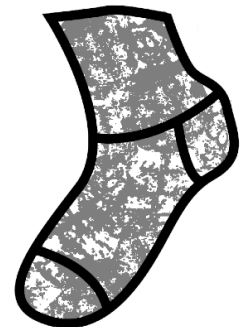
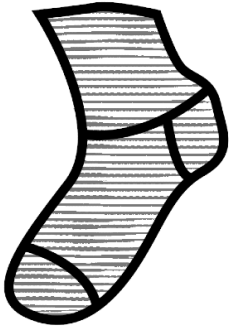


**I was told not to tease or whistle
at the Northern Lights, as they
were the spirits of our ancestors**



**Grandmother told stories of
Wesakechak and how he
taught us lessons through his
mischievous behaviours**

**Help Kohkom Mary
match the socks**

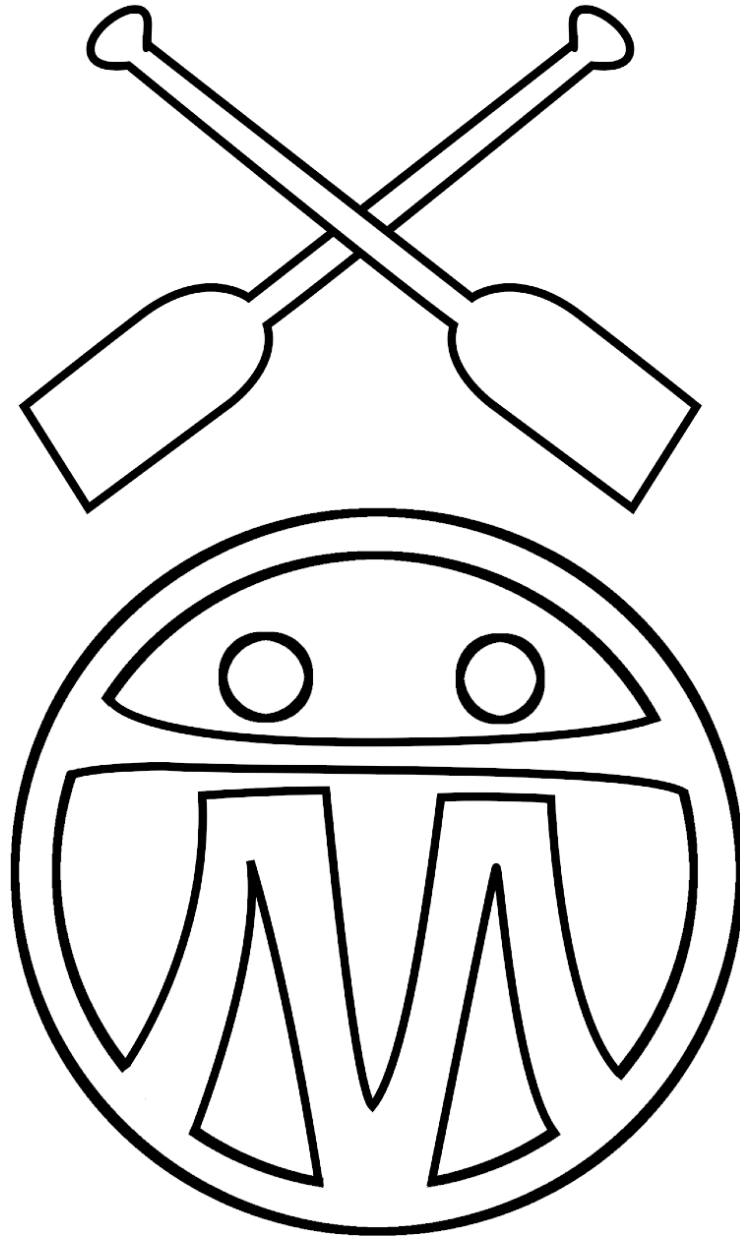


**Mom sewed our clothing from flour
sacks and knit our wool socks. Now I
knit socks for my family**

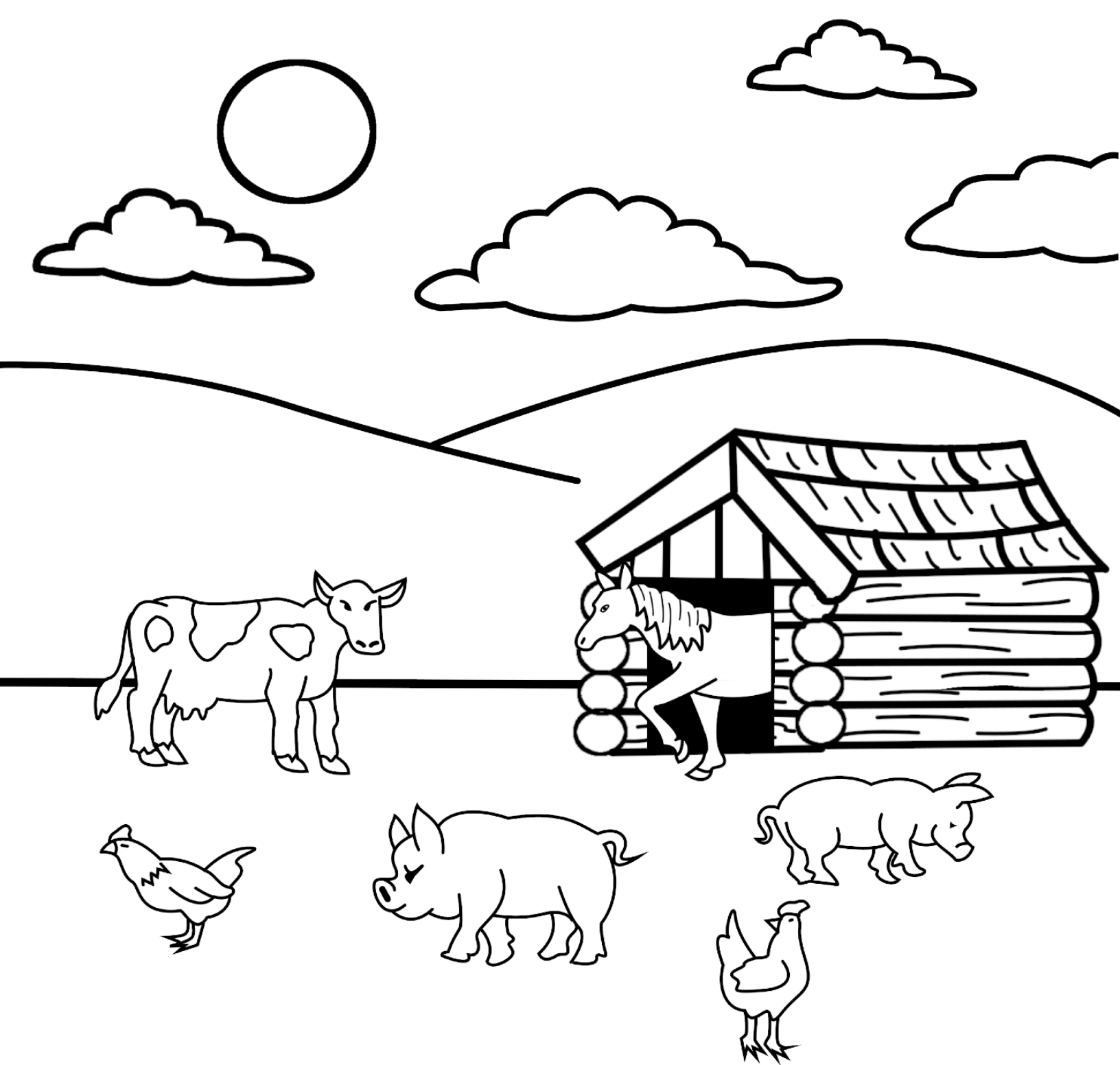




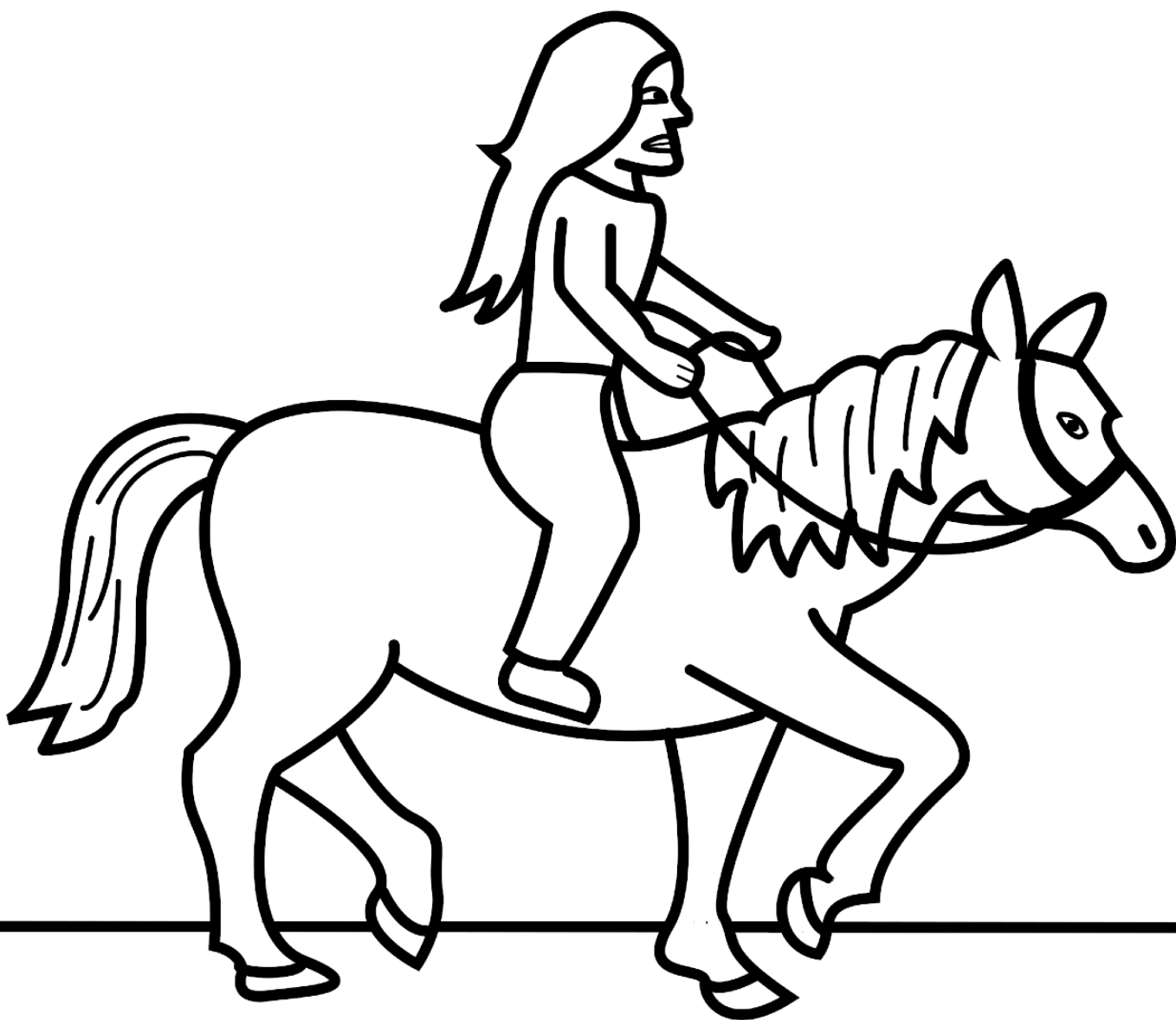
**Dad and mom would stretch out
moose hide to dry it and make
moccasins, vests, gloves and mukluks**



**We moved onto a Métis settlement
which is a community where Indigenous
people in Alberta, with a common
experience, came together to live**



**Dad built another log cabin and
bought pigs, chickens, and a cow**

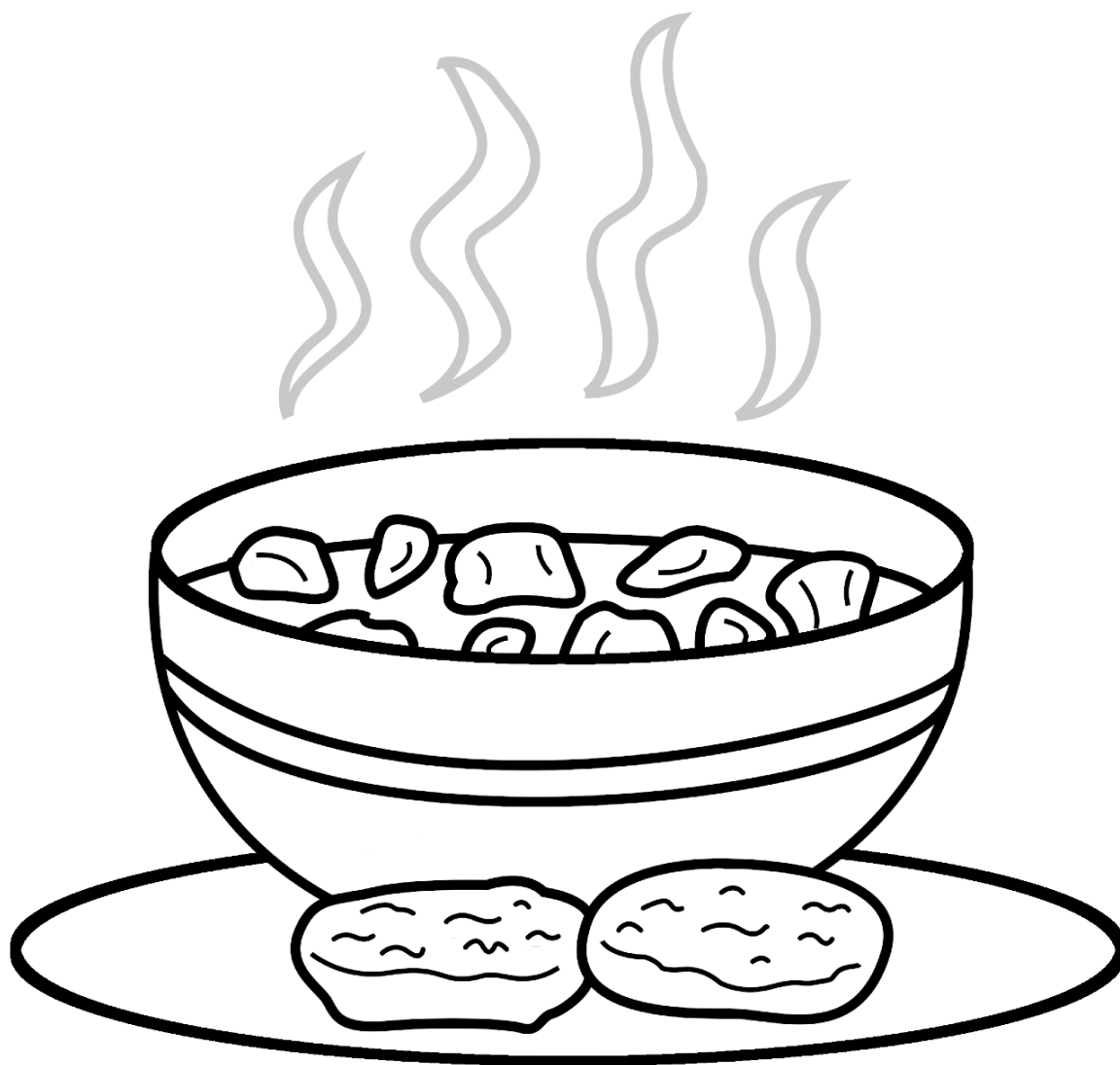


**Instead of riding a school bus,
I rode my horse to school**



**There continues to be fiddle and
guitar music and singing in our house**





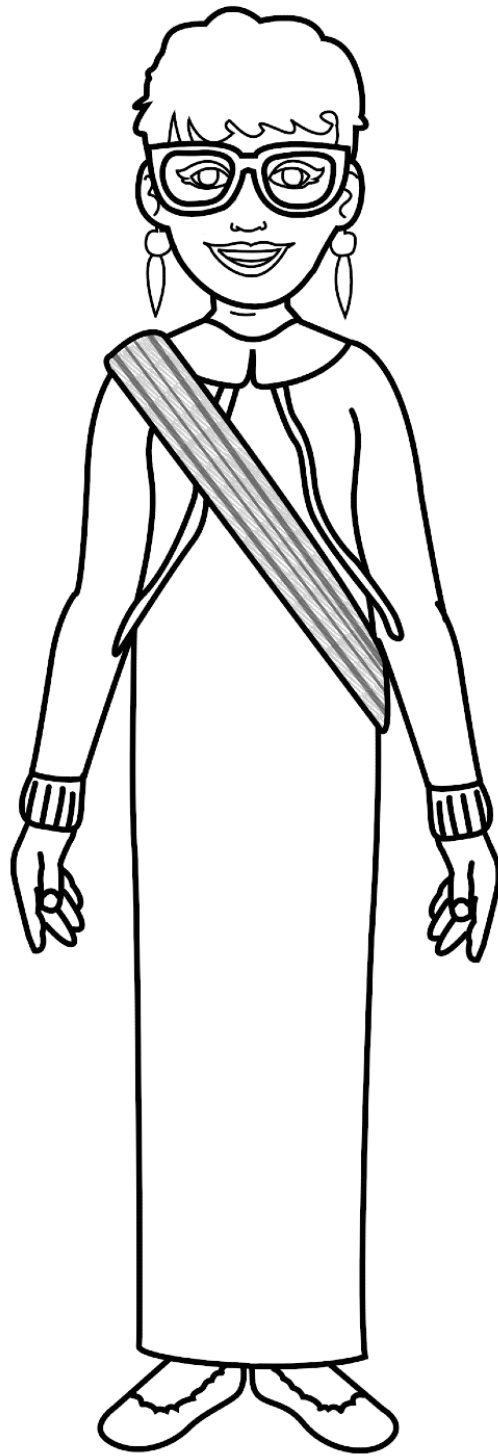
My family continues to enjoy eating dry meat, moose meat stew and bannock



**I regularly go to Church and
pray the Holy Rosary**



**I feel a close connection to
nature and the land**



**I wear my Métis Sash proudly at
ceremonies as a symbol of
Nationhood and Pride**



**Rupertsland
Institute**

Métis Centre of Excellence



**Rupertsland
Centre**

For Teaching and Learning